

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US PINT MP

SUBJECT: LEADER OF MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT EXPLAINS
HIS PARTY'S POLICY TOWARD SOVIET UNION

1. LE MILITANT, ORGAN OF THE MARXIST-ORIENTED PARTY, THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM), ON APRIL 13 FEATURED A SIGNED EDITORIAL BY THE PARTY'S SECRETARY GENERAL, PAUL BERENGER, RESPONDING TO CERTAIN CRITICISMS OF THE MMM PUBLISHED BY A PAPER FRIENDLY TO THE MMM, LE MAURICIEN. THE MOST INTERESTING SECTION OF BERENGER'S EDITORIAL GIVES HIS ANSWER TO THE DHARGE THAT THE MMM "TAKES OFFENSE" AT ANY CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET UNION. THERE FOLLOWS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THIS PORTION OF BERENGER'S ARTICLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: LINDSAY RIVIERE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF LE MAURICIEN, RECENTLY WROTE SEVERAL EDITORIALS CONCERNING THE MMM.

IN THE WEEK-END OF APRIL 3 LAST HE ASKS THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: "WHY DOES THE MMM, WHICH CLAIMS TO BE FORMALLY OPPOSED TO THE RUSSIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM AND AWARE OF THE SELFISH DESIGNS OF THE USSR, TAKE SUCH OFFENSE WHENEVER
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CRITICISMS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST THAT SYSTEM AND ITS EXTENSION THROUGH AN EXPANSIONIST POLICY?"...

LET US BEGIN WITH THE QUESTION OF THE USSR.

IN NUMEROUS EDITORIALS, AS IN OUR GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM, THE MMM HAS DEFINED WITH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE CLARITY

ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE USSR.

FOR US, THAT WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE EAST IS NOT TRUE SOCIALISM. WE CRITICIZE THE ABSENCE OF REAL POWER BY THE PEOPLE IN ENTERPRISES AS WELL AS IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE AND POLITICS, AND THE BREACHES OF FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES.

AS FOR FOREIGN POLICY, WE HAVE DENOUNCED THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE SOVIET STRANGLEHOLD OVER THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

WE ADD THAT THE USSR, BEING THE SUPER POWER THAT IT IS, HAS THE APPETITES OF A GREAT POWER, AND THESE APPETITES, SHOULD MAURITIUS OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY PERMIT IT, WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO A STRANGLEHOLD.

BUT THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, WE ADD THAT THE POSITIVE ROLE PLAYED BY THE USSR IN THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION WHICH FOLLOWED THE SECOND WORLD WAR SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED. AND EVEN TODAY THE USSR PLAYS A POSITIVE ROLE IN MANY KEY REGIONS, IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST, FOR EXAMPLE. IT IS FOR THE OTHER COUNTRIES TO KNOW HOW TO PROFIT BY THAT, WITHOUT ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO BE "SATELLITIZED".

FOR US TO PLUNGE INTO PRIMAL ANTI-SOVIETISM WOULD BE TO REFUSE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THIS LATTER ASPECT OF THE SITUATION. IT WOULD ALSO RESULT IN DIVERTING ATTENTION, IN THE INDIAN OCEAN OR IN AFRICA, FROM THE FOREMOST DANGER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH COMES FROM THE USA AND ITS ALLIES, IF WE ATTACKED ONLY AND ABOVE ALL THE USSR. END TEXT

3. COMMENT: IT IS BEING SAID IN POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT BERENGER'S REMARKS WILL NOT PLEASE THE SOVIET EMBASSY, WHICH ALLEGEDLY HAS GIVEN FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO LE MILITANT AS WELL AS THE MMM ITSELF. A CONTRARY THEORY IS THAT BERENGER'S POSITION IS MERELY TACTICAL, AS IN REALITY HE IS A HUNDRED PERCENT PRO-SOVIET.
KEELEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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